

House Republican Press Release

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House Approves Bill to Provide Access to Free and Reduced Cost Prescription Drugs



Legislation Sponsored By Rep. Greene

Hartford, CT- On Wednesday, June 1, the House of Representatives unanimously approved legislation cosponsored by State Rep. Len Greene, R-105th, that would establish a Pharmacy Outreach Program to inform underinsured or uninsured patients of help that may be available to them. House Bill 6854 would establish the program to assist residents in obtaining reduced cost or no cost prescription medications or nonprescription medications from participating manufacturers, and educating them about health care issues relating to their medications. The bill now goes to the State Senate for consideration.

The legislation would create a single point of access for citizens by maintaining a state-wide toll free telephone number to counsel and advise eligible persons on how to access more than 275 public and private patient assistance programs, including more than 150 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies.

“There are a number of prescription assistance programs available but they simply are not well-publicized,” said Rep. Greene. “By establishing a centralized system for this information, we will help people access affordable prescription medications. I’m pleased this legislation received such strong support.”

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) has long-standing patient assistance programs that have been available through an interactive web site (www.HelpingPatients.org) that provides a comprehensive one-stop link to thousands of medicines offered through hundreds of patient assistance programs.

An example of current programs that would be accessed under the legislation are the Together Rx™ and Together Rx Access, which offer real savings on more than 430 FDA-approved brand-name prescriptions. The programs are available to individuals who lack public or private prescription drug coverage

The Together Rx™ and Together Rx Access participants may receive savings of approximately 20 percent to 40 percent, and in some cases more, on prescriptions for brand-name medicines. The companies are: Abbott, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb

Company, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, members of the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies, Novartis, Ortho-McNeil, sanofi-aventis Group, Pfizer, and Takeda and Tap.